

AZANIA COMBAT

No 20

SHARPEVILLE DAY ANNIVERSARY

1973

War on slave pay



brothers
&
sisters
joined



**AZANIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE
ESCALATES (Report inside)**

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COVER: (Top picture) African women join men during the militant
demonstrations by Black people in Durban
in January and February, this year.
(Bottom pic.) S.A. police pall-bearing coffin of colleague
slain in encounter with guerillas in Zimbabwe

Editorial:

13TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHARPEVILLE
CELEBRATED IN STRUGGLE

"If we are sent to jail, there will always be others to take our place. We are not afraid to face the consequences of our action and it is not our intention to plead for mercy".

- Mangaliso Sobukwe, in
 the Johannesburg Regional Court,
 May 4, 1960

The Black workers' movement has skillfully picked the right moment for stepping up militant action on the industrial front of the Azanian people's liberation struggle. Both politically and economically White South Africa is going through a crisis period. More than a year after the humiliating devaluation of the rand the apartheid regime is nowhere near arresting the spiralling inflation. Contradictions amongst the White settlers, which have broken into the open, are no longer confined simply to the perennial Anglo-Boer war of words or polemics between the verkrampte and verligte Afrikaners, leading members of the ruling clique are adding their weighty attacks to the huge pile of criticisms against the Vorster regime's apartheid practices.

For years the chieftains of white supremacy in South Africa have led their followers to believe that the Black people are under control and that the only danger to the Whites' ill-gotten opulence comes from Black "terrorists" based outside South Africa's borders. The sudden eruption of militant strikes, in defiance of the no-strike laws against Blacks, took Whites by complete surprise and exacerbated the increasing misgivings of many about apartheid. The racist regime's xenophobic campaign against an international community that is hostile to "the South African way of life" is wearing thin and the atmosphere inside the white laager is positively claustrophobic, hence the deviation by two cabinet ministers and the last commander of the South African army, recently. The series of strikes, particularly the one by more than 100,000 Blacks in and around Durban in January and February, are seen by many Whites as kicking up a menacing dark cloud of Black resistance that will bring about the doom of white supremacy.

Imperialists hit

Because Azania is the fertile ground on which foreign investors have ploughed vast fortunes, as much as it is the vital source for the bullion which backs Western currencies, and for other rich minerals and raw materials, the industrial action of the Black workers is also hitting hard at the apartheid regime's imperialist entrepreneurs and has provided valuable ammunition for the international campaign against apartheid. For an example we cite the renewed interest in the exploitation

13th Anniversary of Sharpeville

(continuing from Page 1)

of cheap Black labour by British capitalist interests in South Africa, only partly unearthed by THE GUARDIAN in London during March, as a direct consequence of the strikes.

Not since the March 21, 1960, Sharpeville campaign, launched by the Pan Africanist Congress, has there been mass action on the scale of the Durban strikes, as gloomily recalled by the White settlers themselves. They are also forced to remember Sobukwe's solemn promise that "there will always be others to take our place" when they sent him to prison for leading the campaign. Neither the jailing of thousands of freedom fighters nor the sanguinary repression of African patriots can conquer the indomitable spirit of resistance in Azania, hence the 13th Anniversary of Sharpeville is being celebrated amidst escalating struggle in Azania.

However, industrial strikes along the present lines are essentially the early shots in the long war that must be fought by the Black people if proper wages are to be ever paid to those who do all the labour but receive only crumbs from those who do none of the labour but scoop all the profits. A proper wage is the minimum demand of the Black people. Under the present system, which is based on preferential treatment for White people, it is impossible for this basic demand of the Black people to be met. Industrial action by Black people in South Africa is therefore inextricably linked to the overall struggle for the complete overthrow of White domination.

People's War

The overthrow of White domination means a political solution which must lead to the creation of a democratic state in Azania. But only the most naive of optimists can ever hope for the South African white supremacists and their Western imperialist masters to surrender power to anything less than armed struggle. Since they are part of the process that must bring about the downfall of apartheid the strikes, whilst playing the important role of seeking the immediate improvement of wages and work conditions, fulfil part of the function of mass mobilisation - an indispensable ingredient for a successful people's war.

Whilst no hopes should be built around the contradictions between the warring factions in the settler camp, as long as these last they are welcome because such contradictions weaken the common enemy and they are bound to lead to the complete isolation of the fascist regime. The struggle for the total isolation of the apartheid regime also benefits from increasing attacks, by their own people, on the imperialists who sustain apartheid with their investments and trade. Already Australia and New Zealand governments do not want to have anything to do with racially selected teams from South Africa, a serious blow to White South Africans whose sports teams have exchanged visits with teams from both countries for decades. Victory for the Azanian national liberation movement may not be around the corner but apartheid's number is definitely up!

S.A. ARMY CANNOT HOLD OFF ADETERMINED ATTACK

- warns former Commandant
General of the army

Potchefstroom. - South African Whites have been stunned to learn from the one person who knows best that their armed forces are "not strong enough to hold off a determined aggressor". The statement was made by the recently retired Commandant-General of the South African Defence Force, General R.C. Hiemstra, who also accused White South Africans of "sheltering behind the Defence Force" instead of putting the South African racial house in order.

Speaking at the formal opening of the academic year at the Afrikaner University of Potchefstroom General Hiemstra said (White) South Africans failed to "take notice of certain fundamental facts and all their consequences". He said they shrink back from essential changes and "to obviate taking action, South Africa continued on a stream of empty words."

In parliament, reports the Johannesburg Star on February 17, 1973, de Villiers Graaff, leader of the "opposition" United Party said General Hiemstra's "forthright statement was evidence of the growing anxiety among people of all shades of political opinion about the present temper of race relations in South Africa." At the same time the leader of Mrs. Helen Suzman's Progressive Party, Colin Eglin, told White South Africans that "the General's blunt and critical warning was especially significant because it came from a man who combined an intimate knowledge of the Defence Force with fierce commitment to Afrikaner nationalism."

More Afrikaner dissidents

General Hiemstra's attack on the apartheid system is one of three that have come from important members of the ruling Afrikaner hierarchy. The first blow was struck by Theo Gerder, who after resigning as Minister of the Interior has set up an organisation to promote good neighbourly relations - on the basis of "equality" - with independent African states in Southern Africa. After General Hiemstra's attack the former Minister of Community Development, Blaar Coetzee, for years a rabid racist, suddenly denounced the Government for prohibiting Blacks from a theatre in Cape Town.

Coetzee, who was at the time Ambassador of South Africa in Rome, said to a reporter from the Argus Group of newspapers: "Not allowing coloured people into the Nic Malan Theatre in Cape Town is to my mind one of the most shocking things I have ever come across. I mean, after all, the Coloured people paid for it so, what the hell, why can't they go there one or two nights a week?"

Coetzee, like Gerdner before him, was forced to resign by the government. Asked by the Rand Daily Mail (February 24) how he felt about leaving Rome so soon after being posted there he replied: "I'm not disappointed".

Army cannot hold off attack

(Continuing from Page 3)

Other leading Afrikaner dissidents include Breyten Breytenbach, their greatest poet, and Chris Barnard, the leading heart surgeon. Barnard attacked both the National Party of Vorster and the U.F. (which he joined recently) for banning eight white students following a recommendation by a joint parliamentary committee of the two parties. The surgeon said he fully backed the student protests against apartheid and would have joined in if he were still at university. Breytenbach, in a blistering attack at the University of Cape Town, before an audience including wives of cabinet ministers and many Afrikaner youths, said Afrikaner obsession with racial segregation stemmed from the fact that "we are a nation of bastards". To substantiate his contention he quoted from well known facts about the relations forced by the early Dutch settlers on African women.

Treason

These leading Afrikaners are able to get away with such bold attacks simply because they are "folk heroes" to the rank and file, or because, like General Hiemstra and the two former cabinet ministers, their status makes them virtually unassailable. This is more so with the former Commandant-General whose utterances about the sensitive issue of army strength and morale would lead to prosecution for treason if they were to be made by a lesser figure in the Afrikaner hierarchy or by an opponent of the regime.

But what cannot be wished away by Vorster is the glaring fact that many of his followers are panicking in the face of increased Black militancy and are looking for solutions away from apartheid. It is also a fact that cabals seeking a different approach are active within the Afrikaner ruling clique.

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 * B R I E F R E P O R T S *
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Cape Town. -An Afrikaans magazine warns South Africa that "bloody violence and anarchy" may be sparked off by labour injustice. The stern warning comes in an editorial in "Loog", a monthly magazine published by the Potchefstroom Group of theologians, which says the State should see that all labourers are justly treated "or else an aggrieved proletariat will be created which would claim its human rights, even through bloody violence". (Natal Mercury, January 23, 1973).

Durban. -The Department of Labour and three building trades unions have agreed to prosecute unskilled African workers doing work set aside for Whites, because of unsuccessful attempts to win prosecutions against offending companies. The use of unskilled African labourers to skilled work reserved for White artisans under the Industrial Conciliation Act was exposed by newspapers in November, last year, and was followed by several prosecutions. But all the cases were thrown out because the State had failed to bring witnesses. (Editor's Note: Because they cannot afford lawyers African workers are more vulnerable than their employers hence the decision by the Government and the White trades union to pick on them). The decision follows a meeting of the Industrial Council in Ladysmith. (Natal Mercury, January 19, 1973).

Johannesburg. - While White consumers, on average earning five times more money than Africans, bewail the rising cost of living, township dwellers labour under a new Poverty Datum Line of R83 a month. Africans now face increased rail fares, higher prices for rice, tea, bread, sugar, canned goods, salt, meat, shoes, milk, clothing and furniture. (Natal Mercury, January 6, 1973).

Johannesburg. -The Johannesburg City Council's management committee decided yesterday to pay African bus drivers and conductors an extra 3c an hour in addition to their agreed 21 to 27 per cent wage increases from July 1. The busmen, who have threatened to strike unless their increases are backdated to February 1, or unless they are given an extra 4c an hour in addition to their increases, will meet today to discuss the management committee's decision. (Rand Daily Mail, February 20, 1973).

Johannesburg. -South African industrialists were warned last night to consider the consequences of an intense export drive by the European Economic Community to the African continent. Christopher Brocklebank - Fowler, Conservative MP for King's Lynn, said that with Britain's entry into the Community, it would be concentrating on finding new markets. "Most of all we are looking for countries with tremendous growth potential," Mr. Brocklebank-Fowler said. The greatest potential was in Africa. "Our trade is more important south of the Zambesi than north of it." (Rand Daily Mail, January 25, 1973).

Cape Town. - Cape Town police are alleged to have violated the sanctity of a city mosque to break up the wedding ceremony of a Moslem couple because the bride was a local Indian girl and the groom was a Turk - regarded as White in terms of South African race classification laws. The couple now plan to marry overseas after police stopped the wedding ceremony from being performed according to Moslem rites by the bride's father in the William Street Mosque, Woodstock, last Sunday. (The Star, December 30, 1972).

Brief Reports

(Continuing from Page 5)

Pretoria. - The Transvaler, official organ of the Transvaal Nationalist Party, has taken another indirect tilt at Mr. Dawid de Villiers, chairman of the powerful Nasionale Pers publishing group. Mr. de Villiers, former leader of the South African World Court legal team on the South West African issue, is under fire for his suggestion that the Prime Minister should appointed a multiracial advisory council to advise the Government on race and group relations in South Africa. Last Saturday, the Transvaler's political columnist made it clear that he believed that Mr. de Villiers's suggestion involved a "structural change" which would not be tolerated. Later this week, the Transvaler warned Nationalists that the party would not tolerate any compromises over the broad framework of political separation. In its attitude, the Transvaler neglects the fact that Mr. de Villiers made it clear in his Day of the Covenant speech that the main reason for his advisory council call was his belief that such a body was necessary for the improvement of race and group relations in South Africa. (The Star, December 30, 1972).

Cape Town. - Democracy for "Europeans only" was ultimately a denial of democracy Professor C.A. Rodgers, vice chancellor of the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, said at the University of Cape Town recently. In Africa there were probably not more than 5 million people of White stock of a total of some 350 million. Most of these Europeans lived in Central and Southern Africa. They had to decide whether democracy was a way of life for all men, of all creeds, or whether it had to be "reserved for those of us with White skins." (The Star, December 30, 1972).

Johannesburg. - The ever-increasing menace of violence and terrorism was one of the legacies of 1972 which would hang like a millstone round the necks of all in 1973, the Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, said in his New Year broadcast. "The tempo with which it escalated, the moral and financial support it received from churches and other sources, the steady flow of better and more dangerous arms from communist countries it could rely upon and the unwillingness of the United Nations to deal effectively with this ever-increasing menace, is one of the legacies of 1972 that will hang like a millstone round the necks of us all in 1973", he said. (The Star, January 6, 1973).

Durban. - White sportsmen in South Africa will not return to international sport by "climbing on to the backs" of non-racial sporting bodies in the Republic, said Mr. Hassan Howa, president of the South African Cricket Board of Control, in Durban this week. Opening the South African Amateur Swimming Federation's third biennial conference, Mr. Howa said it was necessary to "ask ourselves why White sports administrators are suddenly motivated by a desire to see merit made the basis for selecting sports sides." "And then we must warn White cricketers and other sportsmen that they are not climbing onto our backs to get back into international sport." (The Star, January 6, 1973).

Salisbury. - Zambian troops and police yesterday fired on a South African Police motorboat on the Zambesi River at the Chirundu border post 350 km north of Salisbury. The shooting was the third incident this week in which shots have been fired from the Zambian bank of the Zambesi on Rhodesian and South African patrols. (The Natal Mercury, January 20, 1973).

Brief Reports

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Washington. - Shaking off anti-apartheid demands for sanctions and economic disengagement, South Africa chalked up its best year in economic relations with the United States in 1972. Bilateral trade jumped from 789, 6-million dollars (R621, 7-million) to more than 850-million dollars (R670-million), while South Africa made a small dent in its chronic trade deficit with the US by increasing exports much faster than imports. The export performance was particularly heartening with an increase of more than 17 percent over last year's figures, according to preliminary Department of Commerce statistics. In the first 11 months of last year, South Africa exported goods worth 301, 4-million dollars (R237-million) to the US and imported goods worth 548, 7-million dollars (R432-million). The comparable figures for 1971 were 256, 1-million dollars (R201, 6-million) and 535, 5-million dollars (R420-million). With exports rising by more than 45-million dollars (R35, 4-million) while imports rose by 15-million dollars (R11, 8-million), the chronic trade gap was narrowed from 277-million dollars (R218-million) to R247-million dollars (R194, 5-million). (The Star, January 6, 1973).

Cape Town. - The migrant labour system denies at least two of the purposes for which the Bible says marriage was ordained, Mrs. Jean Sinclair, national president of the Black Cash, told a congregation at St. Peter's Church, Mossel Bay, this week. Mrs. Sinclair said marriage was instituted for the avoidance of sin and fornication and for the mutual society, help and comfort that the one ought to have for the other. By law, every African man now has to register on his 15th birthday as a work-seeker at the tribal labour bureau and was placed in a category of work which he could not change and in which he must remain for the rest of his life. Mrs. Sinclair said workers were recruited impersonally by agents. They did not see their employer, had no say in their conditions or kind of work, and were given no copy of the contract they had signed. (The Star, January 6, 1973).

Johannesburg. - The Commissioner of the South African Police confirmed today that the police were investigating complaints about multi-racial sex across South Africa's borders. Many South African passports were withdrawn every year to prevent White South Africans from circumventing the provisions of the Immorality Act in Lesotho and Swaziland in particular. At regular intervals, the South African police provided the South African authorities with the names of White men who committed acts of "immorality" in neighbouring states. The list was now an "amazingly long one" and contained the names of some leading South Africans. (The Star, January 6, 1973).

Johannesburg. - Fiat South Africa claims to have set an all-time South African record by increasing its passenger vehicle daily sales by 82, 19 percent over the past two months, and its monthly sales in December, compared with October, by 66, 2 percent. What this means exactly, according to Mr. Brian Moorhead, who made the claim and who became the company's sales director in September last year, is that in December 580 Fiat passenger vehicles were sold . . . at an average rate of 27, 62 vehicles a day. (The Star, January 13, 1973).

Brief Reports

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Cape Town. - The organisers of the international conference on liver disease in Africa, starting at the University of Cape Town on January 22, have decided not to reveal the names of the delegates coming from five Black African countries, for fear they might not be allowed to attend. Other delegates, who would not be presenting papers, were coming from Brazil, France, Finland and Canada. (The Star, January 13, 1973).

Cape Town. - South Africa has a "pathetic belief" that social evils can be halted by the use of police truncheons and prison cells, instead of analysing the causes of crime, according to Mr. Justice V. G. Hiemstra, of the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court. South Africa's prison population was "by far the highest in the world - 420 per 100,000 of the population, compared with 70 in Britain and France and 25 in Holland." On the pass laws, he said that 700,000 people found themselves imprisoned each year. People streamed to the cities because the homelands were poor, and the problem could not properly be approached without industrial development in the homelands. (The Star, January 20, 1973).

Johannesburg. - The ban which was announced in a Notam - a notice to airmen - said: "Aircraft registered in or owned by South Africa, Rhodesia, and any other aircraft destined for or departing from South Africa or Rhodesia are not permitted to fly over Libyan airspace or land at Libyan airports." A BCAC spokesman said the airline's jumbo jets were being re-routed over Egypt and the Sudan. This would cause a 15 minute delay to flights to and from South Africa. The German national airline, Lufthansa, would fly over Egypt on some flights and over Algeria on its West Africa-routed services. The French airline, UTA, yesterday routed its non-stop Johannesburg-Nice flight through Libreville. An Alitalia spokesman said in Johannesburg yesterday that its direct service from Johannesburg to Rome would make a "technical stop" at Kinshasa last night so that, as far as Libyan air traffic control authorities were concerned, the flight would not have originated in South Africa. A spokesman for Luxair said it was planning to re-route its flights. The Dutch airline, KLM, said it had not been notified of Libya's ban and was operating as normal. (Rand Daily Mail).

Melville. - There was sorrow in the eyes of Mr. Lourens Wiesner when he said: "Whomsoever God hath joined together in holy matrimony, let no man put asunder." Opposite Mr. Wiesner, 77, sat his 37-year-old Japanese wife, Mikiko, who has a 14-day visa to visit South Africa with her husband. The Wiesners married in Japan about six years ago and lived there until three years ago, when they moved to Swaziland. (Rand Daily Mail, January 19, 1973).

Johannesburg. - Schenker South Africa, local subsidiary of Schenker GMBH of Germany, the biggest clearing and forwarding organisation in Germany, announced recently that it is embarking on a large expansion programme in South Africa. It has been operating in Johannesburg for nearly 11 years, in Durban for two and a half years and is opening other branches. The strength of the company on an international basis can be gauged from the fact that the holding company is a subsidiary of the German Government Railway. (The Star, February 24, 1973).

Brief Reports

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Johannesburg. - A new R3, 5-million engine plant for machining cylinder blocks and manifolds at the Rosslyn works of Datsun-Nissan, is to start engine assembly in June and is expected to be in full production by January. The plant will manufacture only car engines and will initially have an output of between 1, 800 and 2, 000 units a month. It has a design capacity of 25 an hour. The basic equipment in the new plant is a R2, 7-million cylinder block-line of 20 machines supplied by Herbert Ingersoll of the UK, and three honing machines from Nagel of Germany. Herbert-Ingersoll has also supplied five main bearing cap machines and two exhaust manifold machines. Nissan Motor Company of Japan is paying close attention to the commissioning of the plant and the maintenance of high quality standards. (The Star, February 24, 1973).

Johannesburg. -House of Assembly-More than 93, 000 Africans had been arrested under influx control and Bantu (Urban Areas) Act regulations and referred to aid centres, according to figures supplied by the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr. M.C. Botha, in answer to a question by Mrs. Helen Suzman (F.P. Houghton). Of these more than 17, 600 had not been prosecuted. This means that more than 75, 300 prosecutions took place. (The Star, February 24, 1973).

Johannesburg. - The strike by Johannesburg African municipal busmen ended after 24 hours - but the strike threat is not over. The busmen returned to work after negotiations with city councillors, labour officials and police officers, but the chairman of the Running Staff Liaison Committee, Mr. R.R. Bali, warned: "We are going back pending agreement to our demands on Monday." (The Star, February 17, 1973)

Johannesburg. - South Africans will no doubt be concerned, as indeed they should be, to read the recent warning by Lieutenant General "Tiny" Venter, one of our leading security policemen, that terrorists may well invade South Africa and that we must be "prepared to sacrifice sons and daughters in the defence of the Republic." Sacrifices are indeed demanded of us. We must sacrifice our Shibboleths, before it is too late. Sacrifice migrant labour, producer of immorality, disease, idleness, bitterness and resentment and substitute family life. Sacrifice "temporary sojourn" creator of insecurity and rootlessness and substitute home ownership for our urban Africans. Sacrifice the resettlement areas, those "dumping grounds" of humanity and substitute employment agencies and proper care for the aged, the orphans and the sick. Sacrifice starvation wages, which spite us in the end by limiting the buying power we need for our industries and substitute a decent minimum wage and the rate for the job. Sacrifice all these things, which we are better without, and we shall not need to sacrifice our sons and daughters in the holocaust of war. Refuse to sacrifice them, and the lives of our sons and daughters will be cast away in vain, for they will not save us from the wrath to come. (The Star, February 10, 1973).

Brief Reports

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Calisbury. - Spearheading the new terrorist attack on the White farmers of north-east Rhodesia are the most efficient, resolute and ruthless guerrillas the security forces of this country have ever encountered. Today's terrorists are in small, fast-moving will-o-the-wisp gangs, wearing clothing typical of all Africans in the area so they can vanish among them, thoroughly trained in silent subversion and hit-and-run techniques and armed with some of the most modern light arms in the world. The situation in north-east Rhodesia is by no means that of the Mau Mau affair, as some jittery people have suggested. But compared with the guerrilla here, the Mau Mau was an amateur. (The Star, Johannesburg, February 10, 1973).

Nairobi. - Kenya's CID has been asked to probe allegations that South African apples are finding their way illegally on to the Kenya market. The chairman of the Kenya Horticultural Crops Development Authority, Mr. J.L.N. Cle Konchellah, has alleged that at least 10,000 boxes of apples from Southern Africa have been smuggled into Kenya by Asian firms which are obtaining high profits from them. He says his board will give a list of the firms involved and has said disciplinary action will be taken against any officers of his board or from the Kenya Department of Trade and Supply who are involved. (The Star, February 10, 1973).

Liverpool. - The city council here recently banned the purchase of goods from South Africa in protest against apartheid. The Labour-controlled council voted by a large majority for the ban. Members were told last year about R40,000 worth of goods were bought from South Africa, mainly fruit for use in city schools and old people's homes. (The Star, February 10, 1973).

Cape Town. - If striking Black workers in Natal were ignored or suppressed, the current labour unrest was likely to spread, Mr. Sterling Tucker, a Black executive officer of the American Urban League, said this week. Mr. Tucker (49), who is also deputy mayor of Washington, is on a three-week visit to South Africa. Recently he spoke at the Abe Bailey Institute conference on labour in Cape Town. Mr. Tucker has worked since 1946 for the Urban league, which is a multiracial organisation seeking to improve economic opportunities for Blacks. "We have a strong, united front in the United States, in which we work side by side with people like Stokely Carmichael and the Black Panthers." (The Star, February 10, 1973).

Lesotho. - House of Assembly - Mrs. Helen Suzman (Frog, Houghton) warned the Government yesterday that failure to act against the three policemen involved in the "kidnapping" of Mr. Herbert Fanele Mbale from Lesotho last year would appear to condone their "reckless action". Mrs. Suzman questioned the Minister of Police, Mr. S.L. Muller, on the "removal of a South African citizen from Lesotho during November 1972" and wanted to know what action had been taken against the policeman involved. Her questions follow the international incident precipitated by removal of Mr. Mbale - a refugee - from Lesotho by three policemen acting (as the Government admitted last year) in a "spirit of excessive zeal." (The Star, February 10, 1973).

Brief Reports

(Continuing from Page 10)

Geneva. -The World Council of Churches executive committee made a third set of allocations amounting to R156,000 to 25 organisations "combating racism on five continents." The list of financial allocations includes the following amounts to movements in Southern Africa: Luthuli Memorial Foundations of the (South Africa) ANC R1,750; Mozambique Institute of Frelimo R17,500; National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) R4,200; Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC, South Africa) R1,750- People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) R7,000; South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) R14,000; Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile (GRAE) R7,000. (The Star, January 27, 1973.)

HUEY P. NEWTON SALUTES SHARPEVILLE AND LANGA MARTYRS IN MESSAGE TO P.A.C.

London.- The founder and Leader of the Black Panther Party in the United States of America has sent a warm message of revolutionary solidarity with the Pan Africanist Congress and the struggling masses in Azania on the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of the massacre of African patriots at Sharpeville, Langa and other places on March 21, 1960. In a letter to the Mission to Europe and the Americas of the I.A.C. Comrade Newton, the Supreme Servant of the People and Minister of Defence of the Black Panthers, regrets that his Party is unable to send a representative to the 13th Anniversary Rally to be held in Birmingham, England, and includes a tape recorded message in which he says:

This is Huey P. Newton speaking on behalf of the entire membership of the Black Panther Party. Although we were unable to send representation to personally extend our message of solidarity, our hearts today, especially, are with you in remembering the heroic martyrs who fell at Sharpeville and Langa on this day thirteen years ago. More than a message of solidarity on this one day of commemoration, it is our belief that our daily struggle to defeat U.S. imperialism, here inside the United States, shall surely justify the bitter tragedy of this day.

It is inherent in each of our struggles that each of our losses shall be all our loss, that each victory shall belong to us all. Ours is a common struggle; for an end to human exploitation, for peace with dignity, that land masses cannot separate. For our part we shall struggle relentlessly in behalf of all oppressed people throughout the world, including our Brothers and Sisters in Mother Africa, so that our martyrs shall not have died in vain and our future generations shall not know such pain.

As a further contribution to Sharpeville Day the Black Panther Party dispatched 100 copies of the Black Panther of December 7 which has a special feature on the Azanian struggle for distribution at the Rally.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE RELEASE OF MANGALISO SOBUKWE & ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH AFRICA LAUNCHED

To mark the 13th Anniversary of the Sharpeville-Langa massacres the Mission to Europe and the Americas of the Pan Africanist Congress, in addition to other activities, launched a world-wide campaign for the release of Mangaliso Sobukwe, the President of the P.A.C. and National Leader of the Azanian people, from House Arrest and for the freeing of other opponents of the South African racist regime who are similarly detained and the complete release of the thousands of political prisoners on Robben Island Maximum Security Jail and other prisons.

An initial petition signed by 40 British Members of Parliament was submitted to the representation of the South African settler regime in London by the Pan Africanist Congress, on March 21, 1973. The message in the petition reads: "We, the undersigned, Members of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, call on the Government of the Republic of South Africa to respect the wishes of the International Community, enshrined in the Declaration of Human Rights and expressed on numerous occasions through the General Assembly of the United Nations, and immediately release from House Arrest Mangaliso Sobukwe and all opponents of apartheid who are in detention, serving prison sentences, under House Arrest or in any form of restriction or incarceration because of their beliefs and because of actions they have undertaken to bring about an end to apartheid in South Africa".

Front benchers

Lord Brockway, a veteran campaigner for freedom in former British colonies and other parts of the Third World and President of Liberation, the successor to the Movement for Colonial Freedom, has also expressed his support for the campaign for the release of political prisoners in South Africa who include John Nyati Pokela, a member of the National Executive Committee of the P.A.C., Nelson Mandela and his wife, Winnie, members of the African National Congress and Neville Alexandra, a former member of the Non-European Unity Movement of South Africa.

The signatories in the initial petition included Labour Front Bench members like Andrew Faulds, Frank Judd, Joan Lester and John Silkin. Amongst other prominent people in Britain who are supporting the campaign is the Rt. Rev. Trevor Huddleston, C.R., the Bishop of Stepney, famous throughout the world for his courageous stand against apartheid in South Africa and for his work in community development when he was Bishop of Masasi in the United Republic of Tanzania.

The P.A.C. is also calling on readers of Azania Combat to circulate petitions similar to the one above and collect more signatures of friends of the Azanian liberation struggle who support the just demand for the release all detainees and political prisoners in South Africa.

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AZANIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE ESCALATES

World attention is increasingly returning its focus on developments in the open confrontation between the White minority regime and the masses of the African people in Azania, particularly after the brutally enforced stalemate was broken by African students' demonstrations, last year, and the more dramatic militant strikes by over a hundred thousand Black workers in Durban and neighbouring areas, earlier this year.

At the same time the trials involving activists accused of engaging in clandestine guerilla war preparations bring evidence of the Azanian national liberation movement's determination to intensify the struggle at that level as well. The appeal court in Bloemfontein recently dismissed appeals by six activists who were sentenced to a total of 27 years for working with underground cells of the Ian Africanist Congress in Welkom and the Witwatersrand on a recruiting campaign for youths to undergo military training. In March the trial of six people accused of planning to wage armed struggle against the South African racist regime, involving four Africans said to be members of the African National Congress who received training abroad, opened in Pretoria.

The Durban strike have been extensively covered by the world news media and questions about it have been raised at the United Nations. During the forthcoming International Labour Office's conference on apartheid, next June, much attention will be paid to the upsurge of industrial action by Black workers. The African students' demonstrations at the Black universities and colleges, last May, were an important watershed in the revival of open demonstrations against apartheid and exploitation. Not only did they overflow to the White campuses in the English language universities, amongst the African people themselves the kind of deep impression which was acted out in the strikes of dockers, factory workers, mine labourers, commercial and distribution workers and Black doctors all over Azania, as from September, last year, was made by the Black students.

Puppets "rebel"

The depth of the African people's defiant mood can also be gauged from the out of character anti-apartheid statements that have been made by some of the racist regime's most willing stooges. In an effort to build some credibility with the hostile African masses Kaiser Matanzima, hitherto Pretoria's favourite puppet, challenges the Vorster regime, in the words of the London "Times" (March 21), by an "obstinate refusal to cooperate". Lucas Mangope, who was threatening to out-boot-lick Matanzima, has also changed his tune and attacks Pretoria's opposition to the so-called federation of Bantustans. After their own fashion the puppets are also in rebellion. It is not because they have undergone a metamorphosis, they just happen to be closest to the boiling pot of African resistance.

Azanian people's struggle escalates

(continuing from Page 13)

The determination of the African people to undergo any difficulties and make all necessary sacrifices was underscored by the regional magistrate in the case of the six activists who have since lost their appeal against the sentences imposed by the magistrate. He said the accused before him showed "no repentance" when summing up the case.

Reports in South African newspapers, accompanied by pictures of South African police or soldiers killed by African guerillas, show White South Africans that the rough edges which slowed the progress of POQO in the early days of armed struggle have been smoothed out. African freedom fighters from Azania have acquitted themselves with distinction on the battle field. A reporter from the Johannesburg "Star" once wrote: "Portuguese security forces were caught in murderous cross fire as they charged members of the Pan Africanist Congress of South Africa, according to the first on the spot account of the action in which three Portuguese soldiers were killed near Vila Perry" (Mozambique route to Azania-Ed). The reporter went on to describe how the Portuguese security forces had been eluded by the PAC unit for over one month, over a distance of 500 miles, on the way to the borders between Mozambique and South Africa.

1973. "decisive"

Many White South Africans visualise an escalation of the two pronged attack - armed struggle and public demonstrations - in 1973 and they are distinctly uncomfortable. The editorial comment in the "Star" of January 20, 1973, sums up their anxiety: "What we cannot afford in 1973 is the sort of dithering demonstrated by ruling politicians who, at this vital hour, still debate whether they should have round the table talks with other races ... we should have had those a dozen years ago, after Sharpeville, when Paul Sauer (acting a prime minister following an attempted assassination of Verwoerd during the IAC campaign crisis) spoke of a new book of South African history ... what we need now is another new book inscribed with aspirations of all interests".

The P.A.C. has always maintained that the task of freeing South Africa from white domination and imperialist exploitation is one that will be carried out by the Azanian people themselves. The evidence above shows that despite the adverse conditions imposed by the draconian rule of apartheid the spirit of resistance amongst the broad masses of the people is indomitable. There is also evidence to show that the national liberation movement is prepared to overcome the complex obstacles faced by the guerillas and link them up with the underground cells to intensify the armed struggle. Because of the difficulties and the obstacles the Azanian struggle is bound to be a protracted one. Victories like Sharpeville and the Durban strikes are possible, but there is no instant formula for complete victory, that will come about after a long haul of people's war and mass action.